

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145860
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /035 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
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P - MR. FORBES
-----054864 231034Z /14
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145860

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR CHARGE FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, US., IQ, SY

SUBJECT:U.S.-IRAQ RELATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 3893

1. YOU CAN, IF ASKED, SAY TO THE SYRIANS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO DEVELOPMENTS SINCE HABIB'S VISIT TO BAGHDAD INDICATING THAT THE IRAQIS WERE READY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. AS YOU WILL RECALL, HAMMADI SAID TO HABIB THAT THE IRAQIS WERE NOT READY FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. THIS MONTH, IRAQI OFFICIALS FOR THE FIRST TIME CAME TO AN AMERICAN HOME IN BAGHDAD TO ATTEND WILEY'S DEPARTURE PARTY AND TO ATTEND A LATER RECEPTION GIVEN FOR VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL NAT HOWELL. WILEY WAS ALSO GIVEN DE FACTO VIP TREATMENT IN HIS DEPARTURE FROM BAGHDAD AIRPORT.

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3. NON-AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN BAGHDAD HAVE NOTED AND MAY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THESE RECENT IRAQI GESTURES. FOR OUR PART, WE REMAIN IN A WAIT-AND-SEE POSTURE. WE ARE NOT CROWDING THE IRAQIS BUT EXPECT THAT THEY WILL--AFTER DUE DELIBERATION--GIVE US A FIRMER IDEA ON HOW THEY WISH U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS TO PROCEED.

4. FYI. DO NOT UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE OF JULY 15 DATE,
EXCEPT THAT IT IS DAY FOLLOWING ONE OF IRAQ'S NATIONAL
HOLIDAYS WHEN POLICY DECLARATIONS ARE OFTEN MADE. END FYI.
CHRISTOPHER

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